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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9891

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: SOCIALISTS LEAN TOWARD FORMATION OF LEFT-WING
LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS AS LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE
CONTINUES WITHIN DC

REF: ROME 9597

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER MORO HAS OPENED SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH CENTER-LEFT LEADERS TO DEVELOP GOVERNMENT PROGRAM CAPABLE OF KEEPING TOGETHER HIS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY OVER NEAR TERM. MEANWHILE, SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS HAVE CONFIRMED PROPENSITY OF PSI TO FORM WHEREVER POSSIBLE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS WITH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) OR AT LEAST OPEN TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN CASES THERE THE PCI-PSI TOGETHER DO NOT COMMAND A MAJORITY. PSI THREAT TO FORM MINORITY PCI-PSI JUNTA IN PIEDMONT REGION, WHERE CENTER-LEFT COALITION WOULD HAVE CLEAR MAJORITY, HAS PRODUCED THREATS FROM CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) MINISTERS TO RESIGN FROM GOVERNMENT IN PROTEST. WITHIN THE DC, ALL EFFORTS BY FACTION LEADERS ARE FOCUSED ON JOCKEYING FOR POSITION BEFORE KEY JULY 19 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AT WHICH POLITICAL FATE OF DC SECRETARY FANFANI MAY BE DECIDED. END SUMMARY.

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1. PRIME MINISTER MORO'S MEETING JULY 8 WITH SOCIALIST

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PARTY (PSI) PRESIDENT NENNI AND SECRETARY DEMARTINO MADE CLEAR THAT PSI STANDING PAT UNTIL RESULTS OF JULY 19 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT NATIONAL COUNTCIL MEETING ARE KNOWN. SOCIALIST LEADERS REAFFIRMED THAT PSI WILL TAKE NO INITIATIVES TO BRING GOVERNMENT DOWN, BUT NEITHER WILL IT COMMIT ITSELF IN ADVANCE TO SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE OF URGENT MEASURES (PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC FIELD) AROUND WHICH MORO IS ATTEMPTING TO REASSEMBLE HIS CENTER-LEFT MAJORITY. SOCIALIST SUPPORT NOW TO BE PARCELED OUT ON ISSUE BY ISSUE BASIS.

2. WHILE THEY CONTINUE TO STAND BY ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THE SOCIALISTS ARE PROCEEDING AT FLANK SPEED ON THE LOCAL LEVEL TO IMPLEMENT THE LINE WHICH EMERGED FROM THEIR RECENT DIRECTORATE MEETING (ROME 9266), AND A JULY 4-5 MEETING OF REGIONAL AND PARTY CHIEFS. SOCIALISTS WILL PROMOTE FORMATION OF WIDEST POSSIBLE MAJORITIES CLOSED ONLY TO FAR RIGHT MSI. REFUSAL OF DC AND OTHERS TO GO ALONG WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED OBSTACLE TO FORMING ALL LEFT ADMINISTRATIONS WHERE POSSIBLY. INDEED, DOMINANT EMOTIONAL BIAS AS REVEALED AT PARTY CONCLAVES FAVORS PSI-PCI COALITIONS EVEN WHERE CENTER-LEFT ALTERNATIVE POSSIBLE. (ONLY LEADER NOW COUNSELING MODERATION IS FACTION LEADER MANCINI WHO FINDS ABANDONMENT OF CENTER-LEFT FORMULA UNREALISTIC IN SOUTH WHERE DC HELD WELL IN JUNE 15 ELECTIONS.)

3. CURRENTLY, PSI LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY IS UNDER-GOING A CRUCIAL TEST IN THE REGION OF PIEDMONT WHERE THE SOCIALISTS ARE SHOWING PREFERENCE FOR PCI-PSI ADMINISTRATION WHICH CAN MUSTER ONLY 50 PERCENT OF THE COUNCIL VOTES, DESPITE A POSSIBLE MAJORITY OF 34 OUT OF 60 FOR THE CENTER-LEFT. TWO DC NATIONAL MINISTER FROM THE PIEDMONT (CONAT-CATTIN AND SARTI) HAVE THREATENED TO TRY TO BRING DOWN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IF THE SOCIALISTS REFUSE TO REESTABLISH A CENTER-LEFT. SERIES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN CANTER-LEFT PARTY CHIEFS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARE NOW UNDERWAY. REPUBLICANS (PRI) AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (PSDI), AS WELL AS DC, HAVE CALLED FOR MAINTENANCE OF CENTER-LEFT WHEREVER POSSIBLE. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. SITUATION WITHIN DC CONTINUES TO FERMENT, WITH PARTY FACTIONS HOLDING MEETINGS TO DETERMINE ORIENTATION AT JULY 19 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING. RECENTLY FORMED ANTI-FANFANI ALLIANCE BETWEEN CENTRIST FACTIONS AND PARTY LEFT WING STILL APPEARS OPERATIVE. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES DC GROUP LEADER PICCOLO EMERGING AS STRONG CONTENDER FOR PARTY SECRETARY POST IN EVENT FANFANI EASED OUT AT

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NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING. YOUNGER DC LEADERS ARE SHOWING INCREASING IMPATIENCE AT CONTINUED DOMINANCE OF PARTY CHIEFS WITH LONGEST TIME IN GRADE, ALTHOUGH NEAR-TERM PROSPECTS FOR MAJOR GENERATIONAL CHANGE WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP STILL SPPESR DUBIOUS.

5. COMMENT: MORO'S CURRENT ROUND OF CONSULTATION WITH THE SOCIALISTS AND THE OTHER CENTER-LEFT PARTNERS IS AIMED AT HOLDING TOGETHER HIS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY AT LEAST UNTIL AUTUM. THE SOCIALISTS, AS WELL AS THE SMALLER REPUBLICAN AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, HAVE NO INTEREST IN SEEING THE MORO GOVERNMENT GO UNDER JUST YET. THE THICKEST MINE FIELDS THROUGH WHICH MORO MUST NOW PASS ARE IN DC TERRITORY, WHERE THE EFFORT TO OUST FANFANI MAY STILL PROVOKE EXPLOSIONS WHICH COULD BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT.VOLPE

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